

Message Text

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ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SNM-02 RSC-01 /015 W

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R 090720Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9007

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR, BM

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS CONTROL - HELICOPTERS

REF: STATE 284376

1. RE REFTEL PARA 1. CONCUR IN RETAINING ITEM ON PROCUREMENT LIST.

2. RE REFTEL PARA 3. BAF UNDERSTANDS PROBLEM IN RECURRING ADDITIONAL SPARE ENGINE AND AGREES TO DEFER THIS PURCHASE.

3. WE ARE AWAITING RECEIPT OF ENGINE MANUALS AND VENDOR COMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRONICS MANUALS. FYI BAF IS USING TECH ORDERS AND MANUALS ALREADY RECEIVED, AND NEEDS THESE ADDITIONAL ITEMS, FOR PRE-TRAINING PROGRAM WHICH IT IS CURRENTLY CONDUCTING FOR MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL WHO WILL BE WORKING ON THESE HELICOPTERS.

4. WE EXPECT TO RECEIVE BAF COMMENTS SHORTLY ON PROPOSED TRAINING SCHEDULE. BAF WILL BE UNABLE COMPLETE SELECTION AND DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES IN TIME TO MAKE FEBRUARY STARTING DATE FOR NDI COURSE. THIS TRAINING COURSE SHOULD BE POSTPONED TO MAY OR OTHER LATER STARTING DATE.

5. EMBASSY HAS BEEN GIVING THOUGHT TO TIMING OF PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL 12 HELICOPTERS. IN VIEW OF RELATIVELY LONG LEAD TIME BEFORE DELIVERY, AND OUR DESIRE TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM TROOP-LIFT CAPABILITY FOR EARLIEST POSSIBLE OPERATIONS AGAINST TRAFFICKERS, WE WOULD PREFER NOT TO WAIT TO ORDER ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT UNTIL AFTER DELIVERY OF FIRST SIX. AT SAME TIME, WE DO NOT DEEM IT

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DESIRABLE TO COMMIT OURSELVES TO GUB TO PROCURE ADDITIONAL AIR-

CRAFT UNTIL WE HAVE HAD SOME OPPORTUNITY TO OBSERVE INITIAL USE OF FIRST THREE OR SIX.

6. WE RECOMMEND, THEREFORE, THAT S/NM AND AID PROCEED NOW WITH PROCUREMENT OF ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT FOR DELIVERY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE IN 1976, BUT WITHOUT FURTHER AMENDMENT TO PROAG. AT THIS TIME. WE REALIZE THIS PROCEDURE IS SUBJECT TO A SLIGHT RISK OF FINANCIAL LOSS IF UTILIZATION OF THE INITIAL INCREMENT PROVES UNSATISFACTORY AND THE ORDER FOR ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT HAS TO BE CANCELLED OR THE AIRCRAFT DIVERTED TO ANOTHER PROGRAM. BELIEVE THIS RISK, HOWEVER, IS OUTWEIGHED BY THE LIKELIHOOD OF HIGHER COSTS IF PROCUREMENT IS DELAYED.

OSBORN

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